बेमौसम वर्षा के कारण होने वाली क्षति

468. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चालू वर्ष के दौरान देश के विभिन्न भागों में बेमौसम वर्षा के कारण खड़ी फसलों के बरबाद होने की संभावना है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किस-किस राज्य में कौन-कौन सी फसल के कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में नुकसान होने का अनुमान है तथा उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने किसानों को फसलों को पहुंची क्षति के लिए राहत उपायों के रूप में कोई आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो किस-किस राज्य में कितनी-कितनी सहायता प्रदान की गई है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल) (क) और (ख) विभिन्न राज्यों द्वारा की गई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून के दौरान वर्षा/बाढ़ के कारण फसलों को हुए नुकसान को नीचे दर्शाया गया है:

	(लाख हैक्टेयर में)
आन्ध्र प्रदेश	0.23
असम	2.89
बिहार	12.24
हरियाणा	10.79
हिमाचल प्रदेश	2.35
कर्नाटक	6.07
केरल	1.13
पंजाब	1.76
सिक्किम	0.10
उत्तर प्रदेश	13.93
पश्चिम बंगाल	1.31

(ग) और (घ) वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए आन्ध्र-प्रदेश, असम, बिहार, कर्नाटक, केरल, सिक्किम और उत्तरप्रदेश को आपदा राहत कोष का सम्पूर्ण केन्द्रीय अंश निर्मुक्त किया जा चुका है और इस वर्ष (1998-99) के लिए हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब तथा पश्चिम बंगाल को आपदा राहत कोष के केन्द्रीय अंश की तीन त्रैमासिक किश्तें निर्मुक्त की जा चुकी हैं जिससे वे प्राकृतिक आपदाओं जिसमें वर्षा/बाढ़ भी शामिल हैं, के आने पर तत्काल राहत व पुनर्वास उपाय कर सकें। आपदा राहत कोष के अतिरिक्त, अत्यधिक गम्भीरता वाली आपदाओं में राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष (एन० एफ० सी० आर०) से सहायता दी जाती है। राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष से सहायता पाने के लिए उक्त राज्यों से प्राप्त ज्ञापनों पर विभिन्न चरणों में कार्रवाई चल रही है।

Deaths due to landslides in Malpa village

469. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enquired about the total number of dead, injured and missing people due to landsliding and other natural calamities in Malpa village of Pithoragarh district and its adjoining district areas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have provided adequate relief to the victims there; and

(c) if so, whether Government had also made it sure that relief/rescue work as provided by Government had been given to the real victims, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, 339 people died and 513 cattle-heads were lost due to landslides in Pitthoragarh and other districts of the State. Magisterial inquiry has been completed in this regard. People who are missing and dead bodies which could not be traced were treated as dead in the Magisterial inquiry.

(b) The State Government has reportedly paid relief assistance of Rs. 24.69 lakhs to 120 persons. According to them, distribution of relief assistance is continuing.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief

assistance to the people affected by such natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Goverment by providing additional financial resources in accordance with the recommendations of Finance Commissions appointed from time to time.

Crop Insurance Scheme

470. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to discontinue the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTRUE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it has been decided to discontinue the Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme (ECIS) implemented in the Rabi 1997-98 season in selected districts, as the scheme was found administratively infeasible and financially unviable. The original Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) will be reintroduced in those districts/States where ECIS was implemented.

Plant Gene Expression

471. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the observations made by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan that the terminator technology to control plant gene expressions is not suitable to Indian conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons pointed out by Dr. Swaminathan to justify his statement and

(c) whether Government will prohibit this technology coming to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Swaminathan believes that farmers should enjoy certain basic rights as a cultivator and as a protector and conserver of the gene pool.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has seriously taken note of this issue as early as March, 1998. Further in May, 1998, a meeting on the issue was held which involved experts from Indian Council of Agricultural Research Department of Biotechnology and Delhi University. Notes were sent to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Ministry of Agriculture) so that necessary measures could be taken to meet the threat especially to ensure non-introduction of the terminator technology in India.

The patented technology may take some time before being put to use Nevertheless, Directorate of Plant Protection for Quarantine and Storage (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Government of India has issued the Office Memorandum No. 82-1/98-PPD dated 25.5.98 whereby the following steps were taken to stop the terminator technology from entering India:

(i) In no case any seed material having Terminator Gene should be imported.

(ii) Before issueing Import Permits for Seeds, Import Permit Issuing Authorities should satisfy themselves that such seeds are not having Terminator Gene.

(iii) Import Permit Issuing Authorities should request the importers to help in getting an additional declaration on the official